

DISC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2002

An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

Annual Exercise By: Cheryl Price



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How often does lightning strike the earth on any given day? And how long is the average lightning bolt? Are we prepared if lightning strikes here? Or, if some other form of disruption occurs, will we be ready to respond?

Each year DISC conducts an exercise in recovery. The State of Kansas Mainframe and Unix environments are restored from tapes which are stored in an off site location. Once the systems are rebuilt, time permitting; they are turned over to the agencies so they can exercise the recovery of critical applications. KDOR, SRS, KDOT, KDHR, KPERS, and the Office of the State Treasurer, are the agencies

currently involved, besides DISC. DISC exercises the recovery of the State's Accounting and Payroll systems

Each lightning bolt averages six miles in length. And since lightning strikes on the average of 8.6 million times per day, around the earth, my question is, have you prepared for possible disruption in your workplace? The recovery of the mainframe and UNIX computer environments is becoming a well-documented procedure. Would your business unit be able to recover? You will be hearing from us, as we work with you, toward documenting business unit recovery.



DISC NEWSLETTER

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EMPLOYEE INFO

*Happy April
Birthdays to:*



Desi Gomez

Linda Smith

Patty Miller

Todd Pettit

Josh White

Dennis Sheets

Pam Rodecap

Kathy Kelley

Tony Matalone

Kelley Scott

Sara Johnson

Helen Gibbon

New To The World



Summer Tralle,

**Kevin Tralle's
Daughter**

Born April 16, 2003

Reminder

**Don't forget Mother's Day on
May 11, less than two
weeks away!!**

SHARP Upgrade By: Doug Quinn

People in DISC, DPS and A&R have been working hard on the Statewide Human Resources and Payroll System (SHARP) Upgrade to PeopleSoft version 8.0, so this newsletter is rather short. I am on the SHARP Upgrade Change Management Team, and it is our responsibility to prepare all state agencies for the upgrade. One way of contributing to their preparation is to have user meetings that explain the changes to the software, and what will be expected of the users to get ready. We held a meeting in Topeka on April 23, one in Wichita on April 24. Two more meetings are scheduled for Salina on April 29, and again in Topeka on April 30.

A big change in the upgrade is SHARP will now be web enabled. Functions will now be accomplished over the Internet. In coordination with the upgrade we have incorporated some of the functionality with the Self-Service employee web site, and expanded things employees can do on their own. For instance, employees will be able to view their pay statement on

the Monday of the pay week. Your pay will still go to the bank on Friday, but you can view it earlier. These functions will be similar to the Open Enrollment we have been using for the past couple years, to make changes to our benefits. Employees will be able to change a W-4 online, and check on their vacation days balance among other things.

We really have come a long way. At the Topeka user meeting Secretary Fricke told us how it was a huge change back when companies went from paying in cash to issuing pay checks only. People did not want to get a bank account, or go to the bank when they needed money, etc. I can remember, in the military, when we were first required to have direct deposit for our pay. We no longer even had the option of receiving a check. Now we can view our pay statement over the Internet, along with other information. I see this as a great improvement and great for state government.